

Appl. No.: 10/538,535

Reply to Office Action of: 10/10/2007

REMARKS

Claims 15 and 16 were added in the amendment filed 7/17/2007. The last office action failed to examine claims 15 and 16. Thus, marking the last office action as "final" was premature. The examiner is requested to withdraw the indication that the last office action was "final".

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kituka (US 4,592,612) in view of Hamilton (US 3,435,126). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended above to clarify applicants' claimed invention. Claim 1 claims that the flexible pressure means is adapted to provide a spring biasing force to develop contact pressure between said connecting means and said cover. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art.

There appears to be no disclosure or suggestion to combine the teachings of Hamilton with Kikuta (other than through hindsight). Hamilton discloses a hose clamp 13 (a/k/a an alligator clamp). The hose clamp 13 clamps a metal band 11 onto metal shield 7 and attaches it with the support member 9. Kikuta, on the other hand, discloses a pair of cable clamp fixtures 40 with lateral wing sections (un-numbered) that contact the lugs 31. Replacing the pair of cable clamp fixtures 40 of Kikuta with the hose clamp 13 of Hamilton would eliminate the lateral wing sections (un-numbered) of the clamp fixtures 40 and, thus, destroy the electrical contact to the lugs 31. There is no suggestion to combine the references as

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the examiner has attempted to do. Even if it was obvious to combine the references, this still would not suggest applicants' claimed invention. Claim 1 claims at least one flexible pressure means adapted to provide a spring biasing force to develop contact pressure between said connecting means and said cover. This is not disclosed or suggestion in the cited references, either alone or in combination. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 1 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 17 has been added above to claim the features recited therein.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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